Clay Shaw appeal

JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 9/6/79
Records not provided, FBIHQ and field offices
Files not searched
Clay Shaw

In attached 62-109060-6821, the 3/13/67 New Orleans to FBIHQ teletype, it is reported that Clay Shaw, accompanied by counsel, appeared at the field office, provided a 14-page statement which the FBI accepted (if it had not in fact solicited it), and that the statement was supported by numerous documents. It is further reported that copies were being prepared for FBIHQ and that the information would be provided in form suitable for distribution. Generally this means in an FD302 or LHM.

Whatever Shaw provided in his own defense, whatever he might have had to say or could prove with regard to the charges against him, is of considerable historical importance.

What the FBI did with this kind of information is also of great importance.

My search for this information includes the New Orleans and Dallas files as provided, all of them, and the HQ Oswald, assassination and Ruby files. It has not been possible to locate any record that can be either the original with its numerous documents or an record that can be regarded as either an FD302 or an LHM.

As can be seen from the appropriate N.O. worksheets, nothing of either description appears at the proper time. (The copy is poor because the original provided to me is virtually illegible, a situation that is not necessary when what is provided is a copy of an original record.)

It appears that the original record, at the very least, is filed in files not searched, as a Garrison or Shaw file, that there is withholding, and I appeal it.

It is also apparent that to the New Orleans office at least the relevance of these records to the request ought be obvious, and it certainly knows where and how it has its records filed.

JFK assassination records appeals, additions to Jim Garrison, Clay Shaw and David W. Ferrie.

Harold Weisberg 8/30/79

Attached is a copy of the FBI's 11/22/78 letter to me, which I have just reread. I draw your attention to this paragraph:

For your information, data pertaining to Clay Shaw's and David Ferrie's involvement in the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy or in District Attorney Jim Garrison' investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was channelled into the New Orleans Field Office files regarding these investigations and no separate files as such were maintained on Clay Shaw or David Ferrie. (emphasis added)

This constitutes confirmation of what I have previously informed you in earlier appeals, that New Orleans has separate files on Garrison and withholds them. In the prior appeals I recall providing you with an 80 number and a 67 filing.

In addition, the formulation is precise and limits reference to records of after the JFK assassination, whereas pre-assassination records are relevant because these men who have been dead for several year have become historically important figures in both investigation. A little pre-assassination information relating to Ferrie has been released but thus does not include his involvements in the Marcello case or in such Cuban activities as gun-running, as I believe I have already informed you in prior appeals.

I have also informed you that FBI contact with Shaw prior to the assassination includes what was necessary because of his and its functions and that in fairness to his memory the historical record should be complete. (The CIA has already disclosed that he was a contact, whether or not more.)

There should be files relevant to both Shaw and Ferrie other than in the assassination files and I intend this addition to the ptior appeals to include all the Garrison records, wherever or however filed, and all Shaw and Ferrie records.

Harold Weisberg